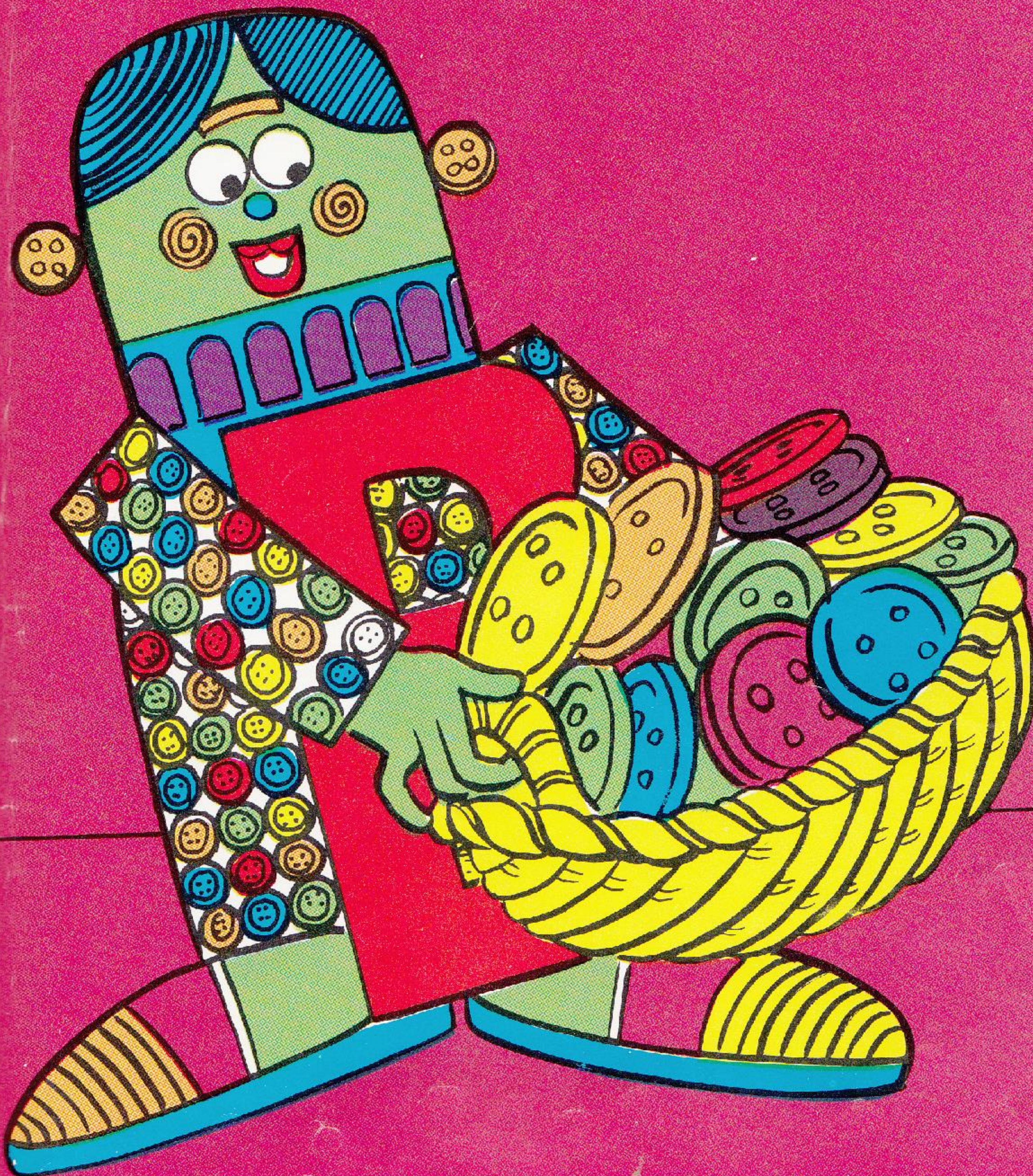


A MAT

for
**BEAUTIFUL
BUTTONS**

ELAYNE REISS
RITA FRIEDMAN

Mr. B loves buttons.
Every Saturday, he washes,
rinses, dries and shines buttons.
He makes all buttons beautiful.



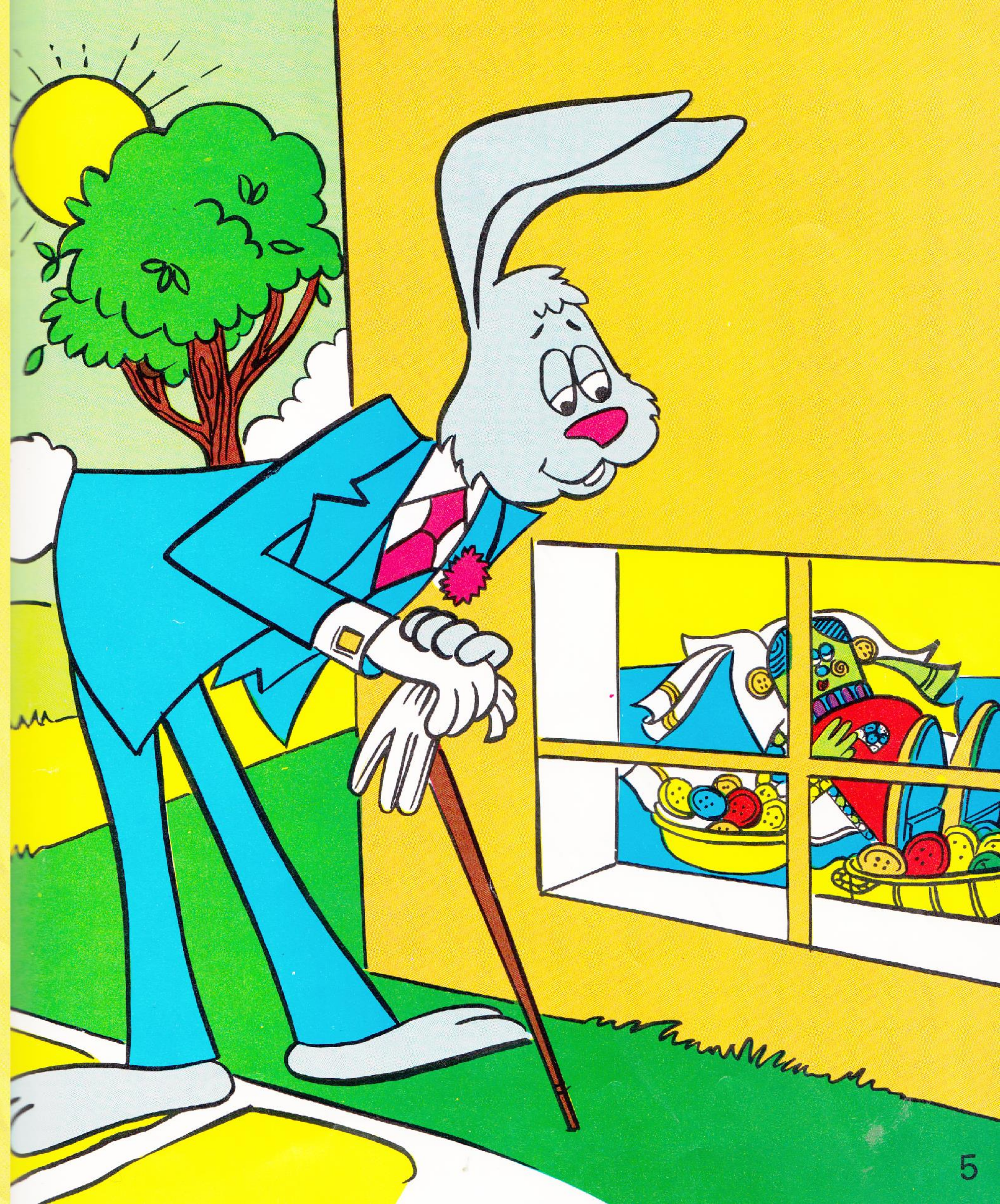
Saturday is Mr. B's busiest day.
First, he carries buckets and
buckets of water.
Then, he carries bars of
soap, bundles of towels
and bunches of cloths.
At last, he is ready to begin.
But...



Mr. B is too tired to work.
He falls asleep for a long time.
Then, he hears someone yelling.

“Mr. B, Mr. B, wake up!
It’s Bingo Bunny!”

Mr. B jumps up.
He looks at the clock.
It is late.
He lets Bingo inside.
Poor Mr. B.
He will never have time to finish
making the buttons beautiful.



Bingo Bunny feels so sorry for Mr. B.
He decides to help him.
Together, they keep washing,
rinsing, drying and shining buttons.
But, the baskets are still full.
“It takes too long to make buttons beautiful,”
says Bingo.
“Let me stop and munch a carrot.
Munching will help me think of a better
way to make buttons beautiful.”



Bingo munches his carrot.
Soon, he has an idea.
“Let’s take the buttons to a
laundromat,” he says.
“Oh no,” says Mr. B.
“I tried using a laundromat once.
The laundromat did not make
the buttons beautiful.”



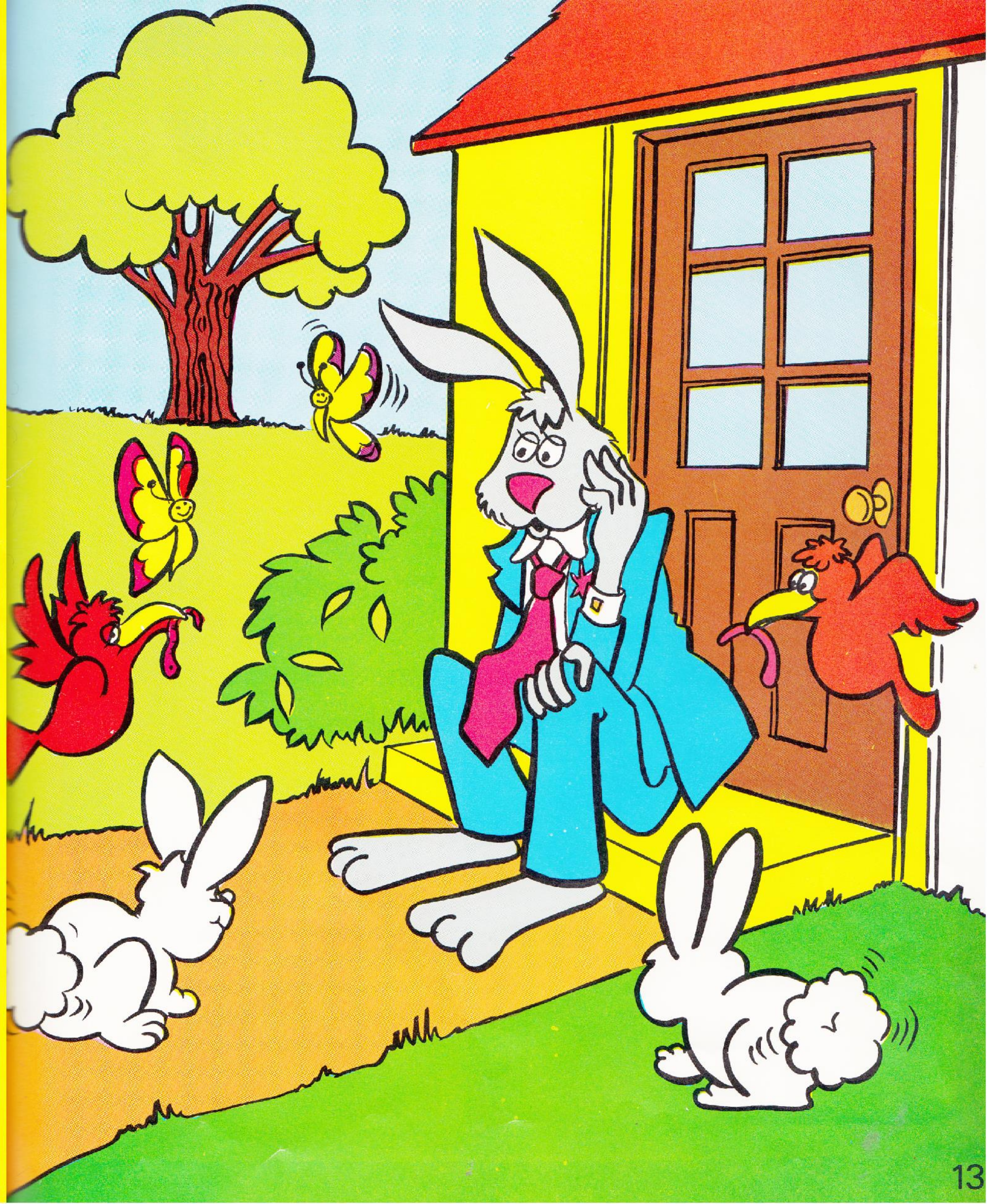
Bingo can not think of any other way.
He and Mr. B start working again.
They wash, rinse, dry and
shine every button.
It takes them all night
to make the buttons beautiful.
Mr. B and Bingo Bunny are so tired.



Bingo Bunny goes home.
The sun is up.
He sits outside.

He thinks, "If a **laundromat** is a
place to make **laundry** beautiful....
Then, a **Buttonmat** is a place to make **buttons** beautiful.
I will make a **Buttonmat**.
What will I need?"

Bingo sees birds holding worms.
It gives him an idea.
He sees butterflies flapping their wings.
It gives him another idea.
Then, he sees bunnies wiggling their tails.
Now, he knows everything he will need in a Buttonmat.



All week, Bingo Bunny is busy making a Buttonmat.
It must be ready for Saturday.

On Saturday, Bingo invites Mr. B to bring all the baskets of buttons to the Buttonmat.

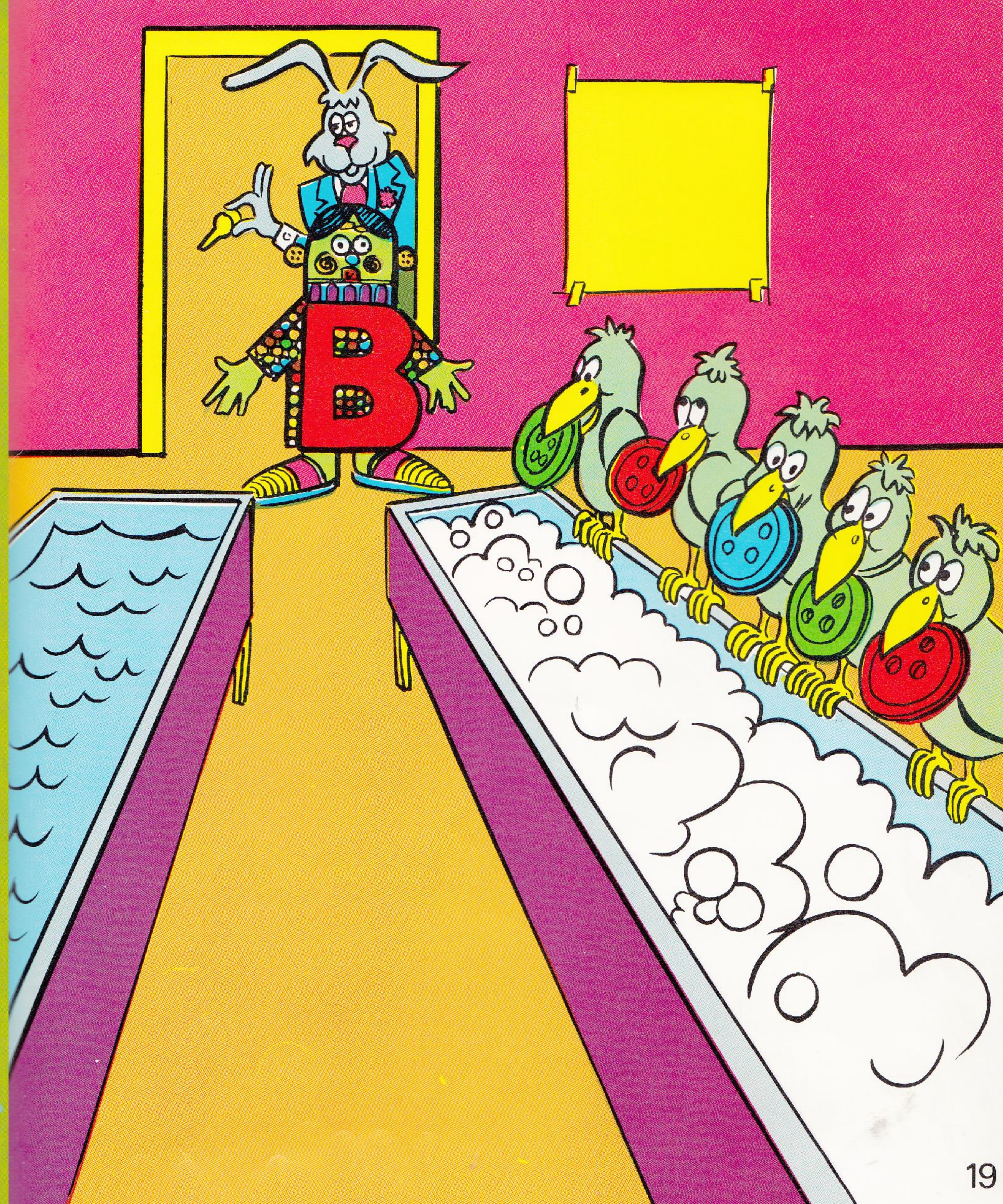


Bingo places the baskets of buttons in a row.
He blows a whistle.
Suddenly, Mr. B sees birds fly to the baskets.

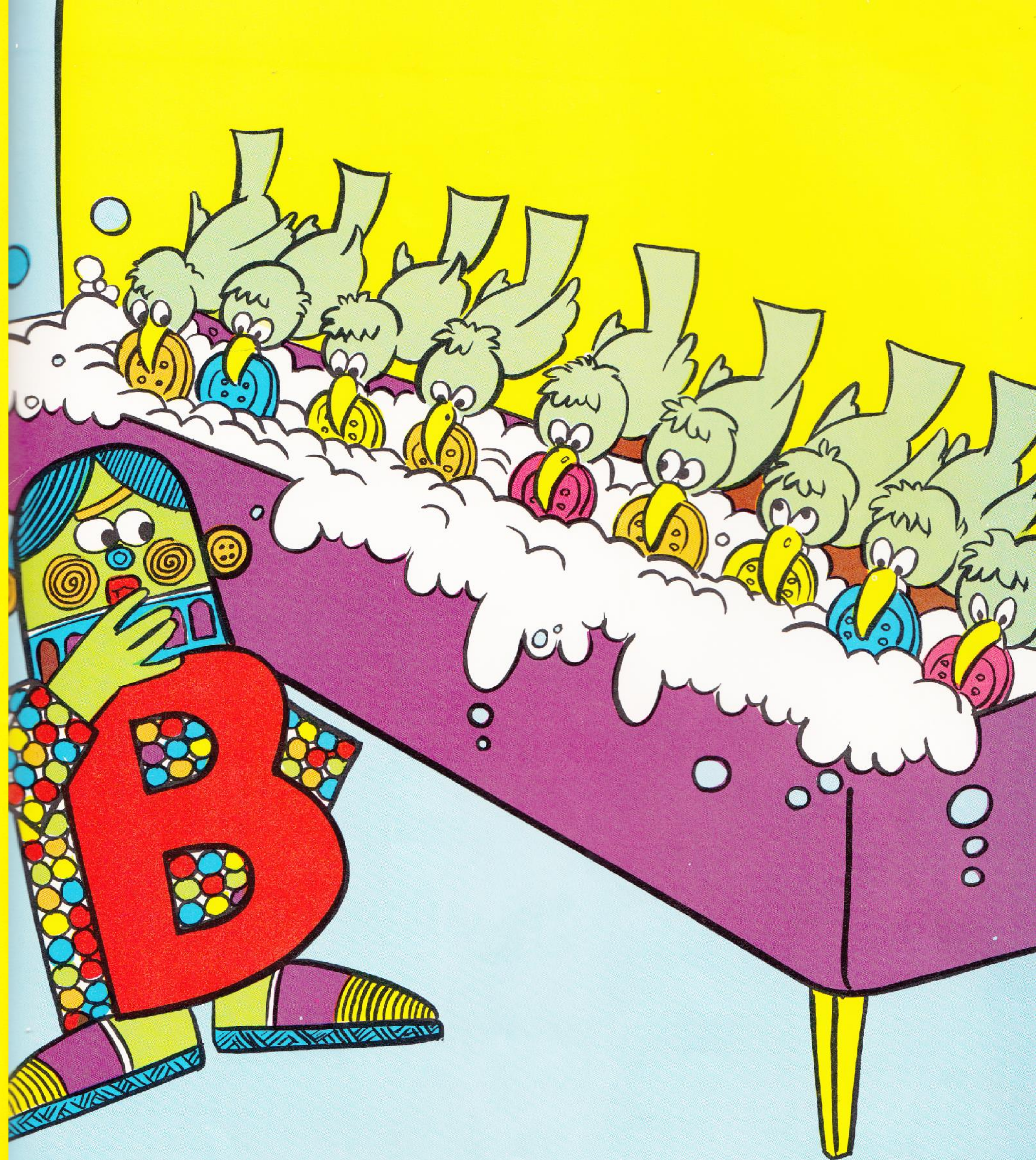
Each bird puts a button in its beak.
Then, they line up behind Bingo.



The birds follow Bingo to another room.
Mr. B sees two long tanks.
One tank is filled with bubble bath.
The birds perch on the edge of this tank.
They hold the buttons tightly in their beaks.



Each bird dips a button into
the bubble bath.
The buttons are washed.



Bingo blows his whistle.
The birds fly to the other tank.

They dip the buttons into clear water.
The buttons are rinsed.



Bingo, Mr. B and the birds go through another door.
The birds hold the wet buttons in their beaks.

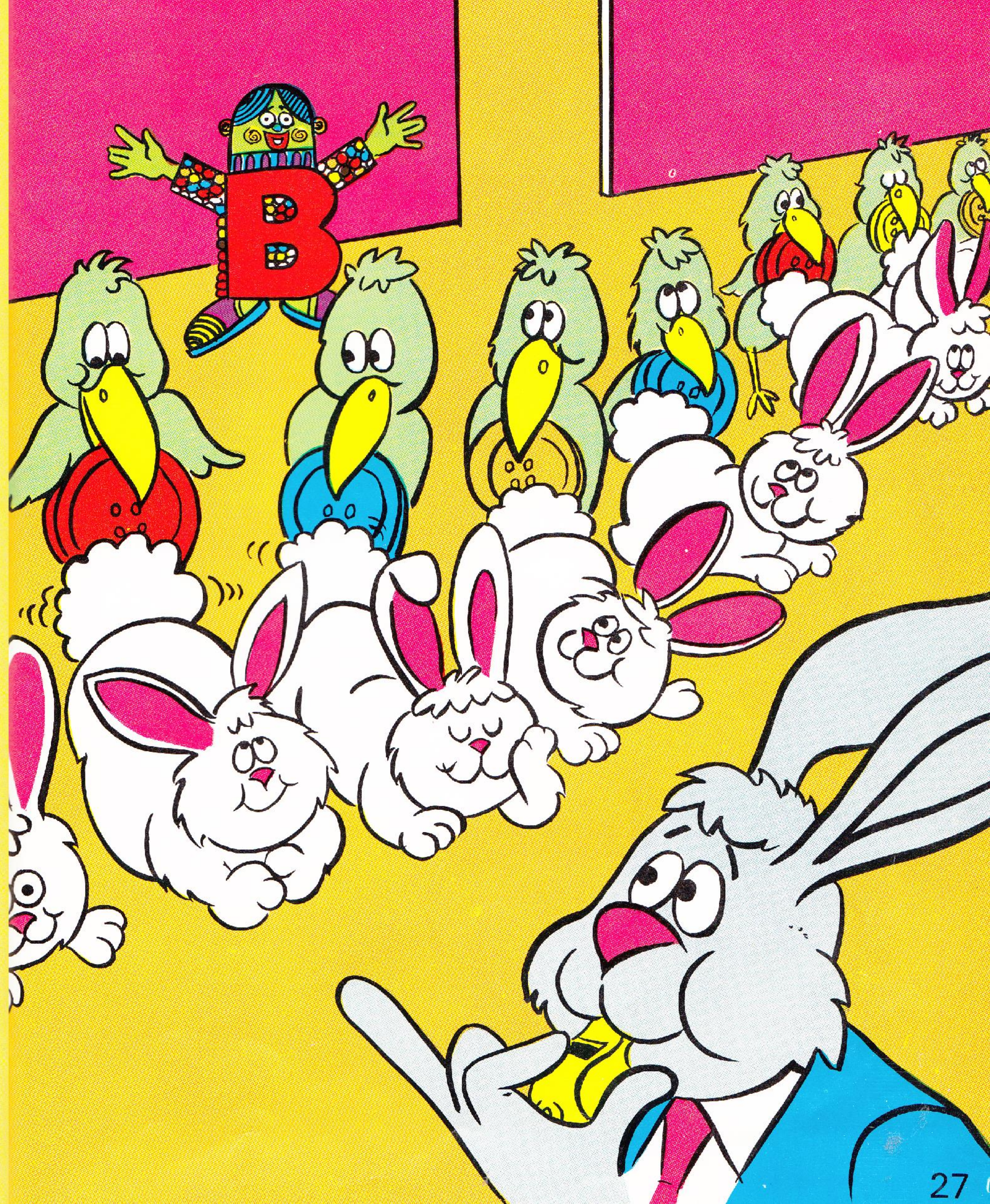
Mr. B sees two long lines of butterflies.
Bingo blows his whistle.
The butterflies flap their wings.
The wings fan the buttons.
The buttons are dried.



Now, it is time to shine the buttons.
Mr. B sees a long line of bunnies.

Bingo blows the whistle.

Each bunny starts to wiggle its cottontail.
The birds hold the buttons
on the wiggling cottontails.
The buttons are shined.



Now, Mr. B brings baskets
of buttons to the Buttonmat every Saturday.

Sometimes, Bingo Bunny asks
Mr. B to blow the whistle.

Remember, Bingo is a bunny.
Every bunny wants a chance to shine buttons.

